

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-10 IO-14 EB-11 SY-10 AID-20

DRC-01 /188 W

----- 108580

R 200805Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2357

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 152

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0107

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: MILITARY COMMUNIQUE NO. 7/74 AND 8/74 -
ATTACKS ON RAILROADS

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 078

1. MOZAMBIQUE ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO. 7/74
OF FEBRUARY 18 ANNOUNCES THAT ON FEBRUARY 16, AT ABOUT 2230,
GUERRILLAS PLANTED AND EXPLODED MINE ON RAILWAY LINE ABOUT
10 KILOMETERS EAST OF VILA MANICA (NEAR RHODESIAN BORDER)
WHICH ONE HOUR LATER DERAILED LOCOMOTIVE AND FIVE FREIGHT
CARS. NO FURTHER DETAILS GIVEN EXCEPT THAT SECURITY FORCES
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HAVE ALREADY SEIZED CERTAIN "SUSPECTED ELEMENTS" IN THE AREA.

2. COMMUNIQUE NO. 8/74 OF FEBRUARY 19 ANNOUNCES GUERRILLAS FIRED WITH MACHINE GUNS ON MALAWI-BOUND MAIL TRAIN AT 1640 HOURS FEBRUARY 17, 80 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF MALAWI BORDER, BETWEEN INHAMITANGA AND VILA FONTES, KILLING THREE PASSENGERS AND INJURING FIVE OTHERS. COMMUNIQUE DESCRIBED THIS AS ANOTHER TERRORIST ACTION NOT HAVING MILITARY OBJECTIVE, BUT THAT OF IMPRESSING PUBLIC OPINION AND DEMORALIZING ELEMENTS OF THE POPULATION WHO ARE LESS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE TECHNIQUES AND PROCESSES OF SUBVERSION. COMMUNIQUE INDICATED MILITARY OPERATIONS DESIGNED TO FIND AND WIPE OUT THE TERRORIST GROUPS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH ACTIONS ARE UNDER WAY.

3. RAND DAILY MAIL OF FEBRUARY 18 REPORTING EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF SAME INCIDENT STATES GUERRILLAS FIRED WITH MACHINE GUNS FROM BOTH SIDES OF LINE AT WINDOWS OF COACHES PACKED WITH PASSENGERS, CLAIMS FIVE DEATHS AND AT LEAST THREE INJURED, ALL AFRICANS.

4. MILITARY SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED PARA 2 AND TOLD US ALL CASUALTIES ARE MALAWIANS. IF TRUE, THIS SHOULD RADICALLY INCREASE MALAWI'S CONCERN AND HAVE MARKED EFFECT ON MALAWI-FRELIMO RELATIONS.
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

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